THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS
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NO. 263
MAY
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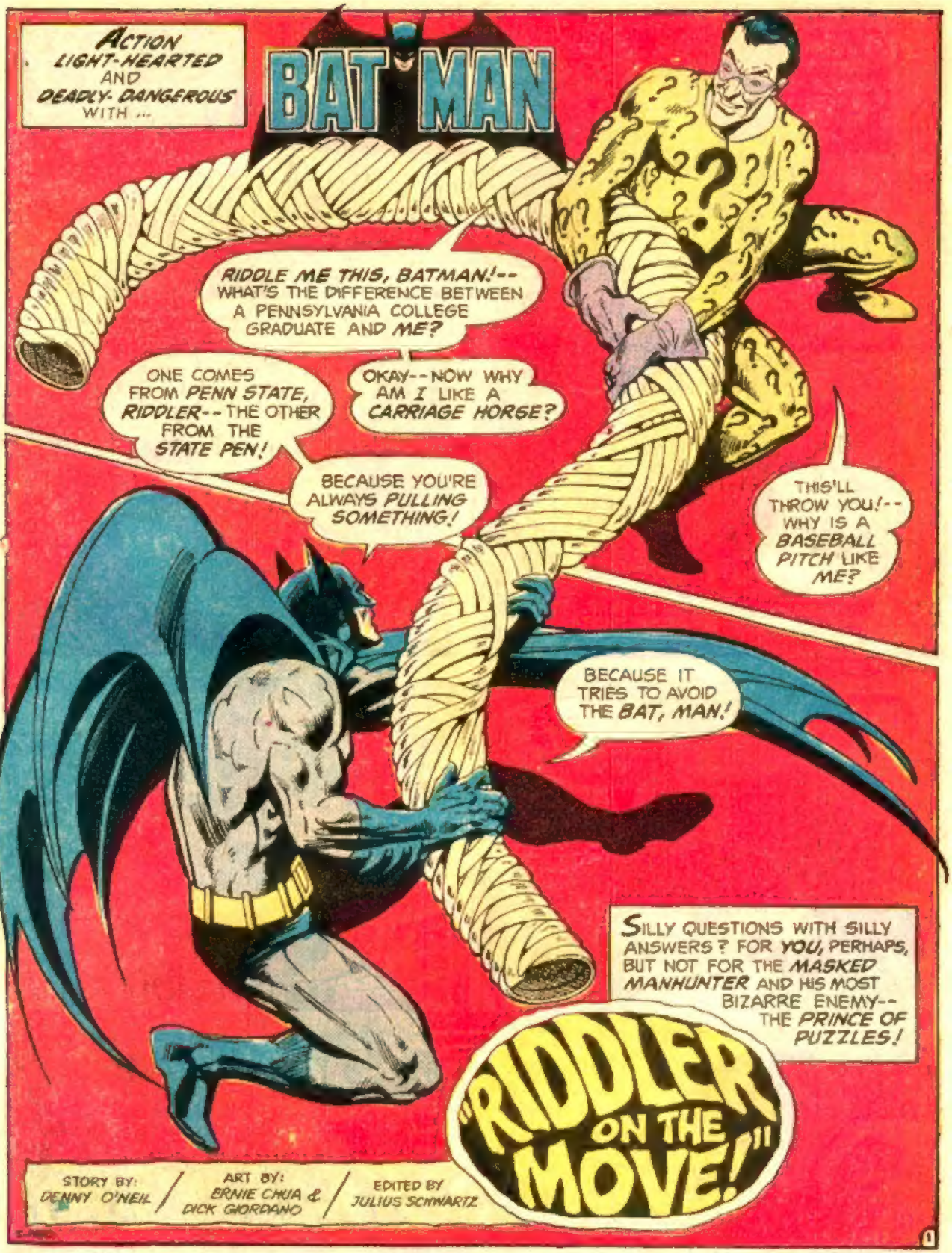
BATMAN
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ONE MOVE, BATMAN...
...AND ZING!
YOU'RE DEAD!


ACTION LIGHT-HEARTED AND DEADLY-DANGEROUS WITH ...
BAT MAN
RIDDLE ME THIS, BATMAN!-- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE GRADUATE AND ME?
ONE COMES FROM PENN STATE, RIDDLER-- THE OTHER FROM THE STATE PEN!
OKAY--NOW WHY AM I LIKE A CARRIAGE HORSE?
BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS PULLING SOMETHING!
THIS'LL THROW YOU!-- WHY IS A BASEBALL PITCH LIKE ME?
BECAUSE IT TRIES TO AVOID THE BAT, MAN!
SILLY QUESTIONS WITH SILLY ANSWERS? FOR YOU, PERHAPS, BUT NOT FOR THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND HIS MOST BIZARRE ENEMY-- THE PRINCE OF PUZZLES!
"RIDDLER ON THE MOVE!"
STORY BY: DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY: ERNIE CHUA & DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
1

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TWILIGHT IN GOTHAM'S THEATER DISTRICT... AND PLEASURE-BOUND COUPLES STROLL PAST THE CITY'S NEWEST RESTAURANT...
MAMA BELL'S
MAMA BELL'S
...WHICH BOASTS A TELEPHONE AT EACH TABLE!
AT THE MOMENT, ONE IS BEING USED FOR A SINISTER CONVERSATION!...
YOU'LL AGREE TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION? EXCELLENT!
I'LL EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
HE'LL DO IT, BOSS?
YES... AND WITH HIM IN CHARGE, WE CAN'T MISS!
THE PHONE RINGING--!
YEAH... BUT NOT AN ORDINARY RING!
SOUNDS KINDA... MEAN!
R-R-RING
HELLO--?
YOUR NAME IS BLAIR BRAMBEL!
I MUST INFORM YOU--
--I'M PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST!
:GASP:
--THE BATMAN!
2

KINDLY NOTICE THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU AND THE EXIT--ME!
EXIT
WE'LL KNOCK DOWN THAT SOMETHIN'--
--WITH LEAD!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA!
OWWWW!
UNNNHHH...
LOOKS LIKE THAT RUNAWAY HOOD DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY-- AND JUST WHEN I'M IN THE MOOD TO MAKE LIKE A GAUCHO--
--THE SOUTH AMERICAN COWBOY WHO USES A WEIGHTED LINE CALLED A BOLO...
...WHIRLS IT AROUND HIS HEAD... LETS GO--
--AND "HOBBLES" ANY CREATURE... INSTANTLY!
WAITER, WILL YOU FIND AN OFFICER WHILE I FINISH THIS?
MY PLEASURE, BATMAN!

TELEPHONE
CREAK
PLANNING TO CALL YOUR LAWYER?
YOU'LL HAVE TIME FOR THAT AFTER YOU TELL ME YOUR STORY!
I KNOW YOU'RE A MINOR GANG-LEADER FROM MISSOURI--
--AND YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING TOGETHER A MOB!
YOU TAKE IT FROM THERE!
NOT A M-MOB... AN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE... FOR CRIMINALS!
LIKE IF SOMEONE NEEDS A SAFECRACKER, I CAN SUPPLY HIM-- FOR A FEE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
RECRUITING! A CERTAIN CRIME-GENIUS TOLD ME TO SIT AT THE TABLE AND WAIT FOR A...
...PHONE CALL!
RINGG
TO WHOM DO I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SPEAKING?
A FELLOW WITH A RIDDLE, BATMAN--
--A RIDDLE TO TELL YOU WHERE I'LL BE AT MIDNIGHT! TO WIT--
--WHAT LETTERS ARE LIKE A ROMAN EMPEROR?
BE SEEING YOU...IF YOU'RE CLEVER ENOUGH!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

THE VOICE--AND THE CHALLENGE--ARE UNMISTAKABLE!
THE RIDDLER... EDWARD NIGMA, OR "E. NIGMA"! HE HAS A MENTAL BLOCK WHICH PREVENTS HIM FROM COMMITTING A MAJOR CRIME WITHOUT FIRST GIVING ME A RIDDLE CLUE!

AT THAT MOMENT--
PARDON ME, SIR... CAN YOU TELL ME WHETHER HEAT OR COLD MOVES FASTER?
WHO CARES?

THE ANSWER IS... HEAT! BECAUSE ANYONE CAN CATCH COLD!
NOW, I'LL TAKE YOUR WALLET!

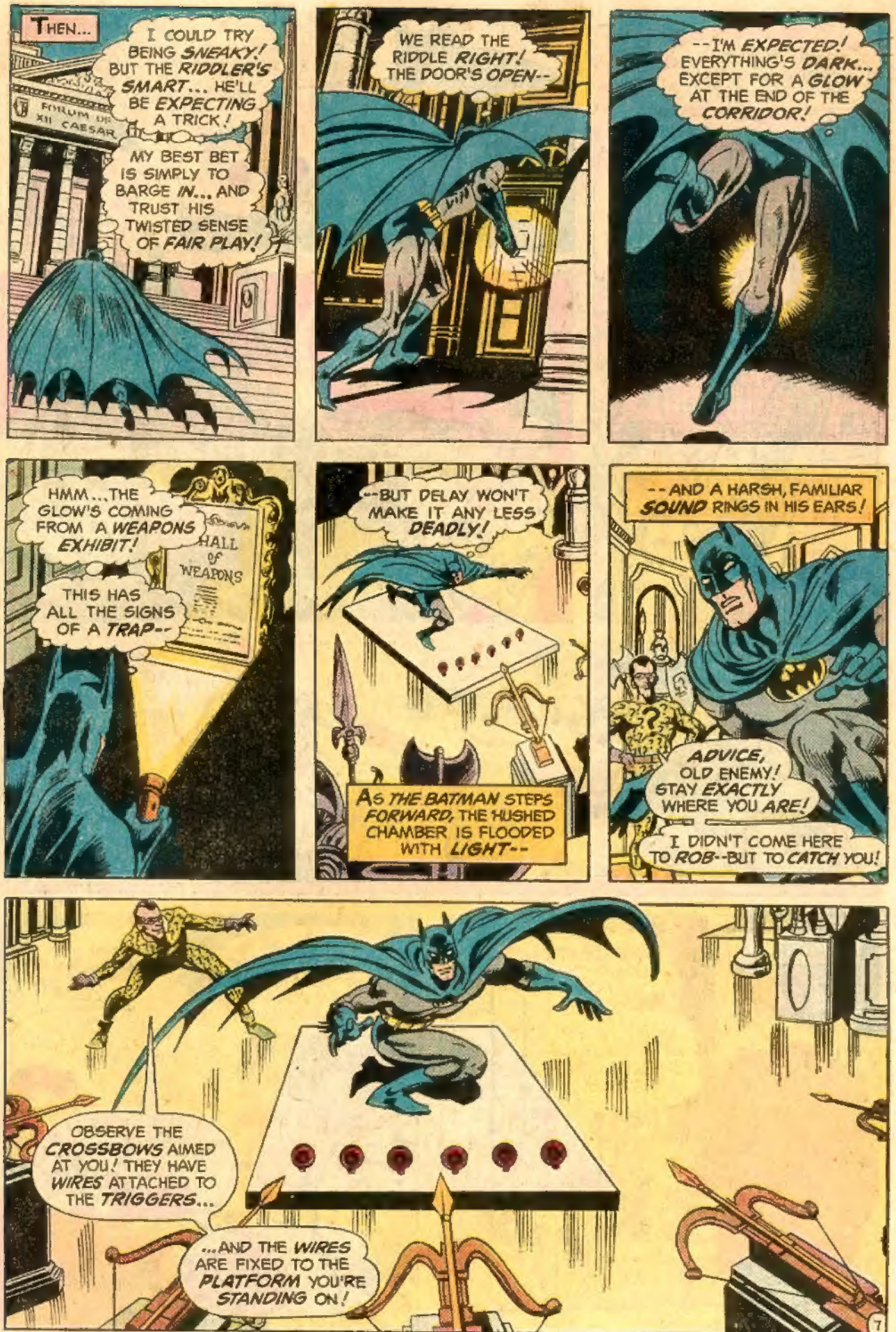
DON'T CALL FOR HELP OR I'LL BE VERY ANGRY... AND SHOOT YOU!
Y-YES, SIR...

WHY DO I DO THESE THINGS? WHY AM I DRIVEN TO CRIME... AND RIDDLES?
I KNOW MY BEHAVIOR ISN'T NORMAL --BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!

OH, WELL... IT'S MY FATE AND I'M STUCK WITH IT! ALWAYS ON THE MOVE TO AVOID THE LAW!
ONLY--I WISH MY FATE DIDN'T INCLUDE CLASHING WITH THE BATMAN--!

THE MOMENT I SAW HIM IN THE RESTAURANT, I KNEW WE HAD TO MEET!
NO SENSE RUNNING FROM WHAT CAN'T BE AVOIDED! SO I WILL PREPARE!

AS THE CITY'S CLOCKS CHIME ELEVEN, MOST WINDOWS DARKEN! BUT NOT THOSE OF BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE...
YOU'VE DECIPHERED THE RIDDLER'S PUZZLE, MASTER BRUCE?
I HAVE IT HALF FIGURED, ALFRED!
HE ASKED, "WHAT LETTERS ARE LIKE A ROMAN EMPEROR?"
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE--C'S ARE... AS IN AUGUSTUS CAESAR!
BUT THAT TELLS ME NOTHING!
PERHAPS I CAN HELP, SIR!
A READING OF TODAY'S NEWSPAPER INFORMED ME OF A NEW MUSEUM OPENING, DEVOTED TO HISTORY!
THEY ARE DUBBING THE INSTITUTION THE FORUM OF THE TWELVE CAESARS!
GOOD GOING, ALFRED!
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!
I SHALL HAVE A HOT, NOURISHING BREAKFAST WAITING ...AS USUAL!


THEN...
I COULD TRY BEING SNEAKY! BUT THE RIDDLER'S SMART... HE'LL BE EXPECTING A TRICK!
MY BEST BET IS SIMPLY TO BARGE IN... AND TRUST HIS TWISTED SENSE OF FAIR PLAY!
FORUM OF XII CAESAR
WE READ THE RIDDLE RIGHT! THE DOOR'S OPEN--
--I'M EXPECTED! EVERYTHING'S DARK... EXCEPT FOR A GLOW AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR!
HMM...THE GLOW'S COMING FROM A WEAPONS EXHIBIT!
HALL of WEAPONS
THIS HAS ALL THE SIGNS OF A TRAP--
--BUT DELAY WON'T MAKE IT ANY LESS DEADLY!
AS THE BATMAN STEPS FORWARD, THE HUSHED CHAMBER IS FLOODED WITH LIGHT--
--AND A HARSH, FAMILIAR SOUND RINGS IN HIS EARS!
ADVICE, OLD ENEMY! STAY EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO ROB--BUT TO CATCH YOU!
OBSERVE THE CROSSBOWS AIMED AT YOU! THEY HAVE WIRES ATTACHED TO THE TRIGGERS...
...AND THE WIRES ARE FIXED TO THE PLATFORM YOU'RE STANDING ON!
7

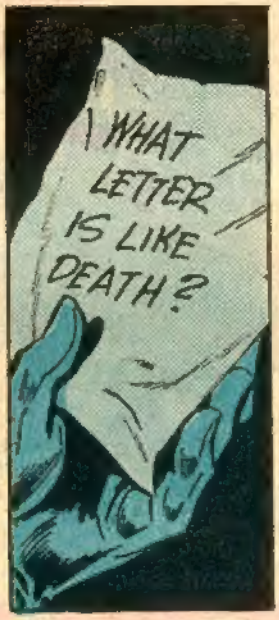
IF YOU STEP OFF THE PLATFORM, THE BOWS WILL SHOOT!
AND IF YOU DON'T, THEY'LL SHOOT ANYWAY, IN FIVE MINUTES!
MY MASTERPIECE, YOU MUST ADMIT--!
BUT THERE IS AN ESCAPE?
YOU ALWAYS PLAY FAIR--SORT OF--TO GIVE YOUR VICTIMS A CHANCE!
HOW RIGHT YOU ARE!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GUESS THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE I'VE LEFT HERE--IF YOU CAN FIND IT IN TIME!
WHY, YOU--
AH-AH! DON'T WASTE TIME WITH ME! YOU HAVE ONLY FOUR MINUTES LEFT TO SAVE YOURSELF!
I MUST BE MOVING ON NOW! GOT A JOB TO DO!
OUTSIDE...
A PEDESTRIAN... ALONE--EASY PICKIN'S FOR ME!
DON'T NEED MONEY, BUT MY SOUL NEEDS RIDDLING!
STICK 'EM UP AND ANSWER ME THIS: "WHY IS THE OCEAN ALWAYS ANGRY?"
HECK, PAL, I'LL GO ALONG WITH THE GAG!
THE REASON IS... IS... GOT IT! 'CAUSE IT'S ALWAYS BEIN' CROSSED!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING
8

ABSOLUTELY, RIGHT, SIR! HERE...TAKE MY MONEY--PLEASE!

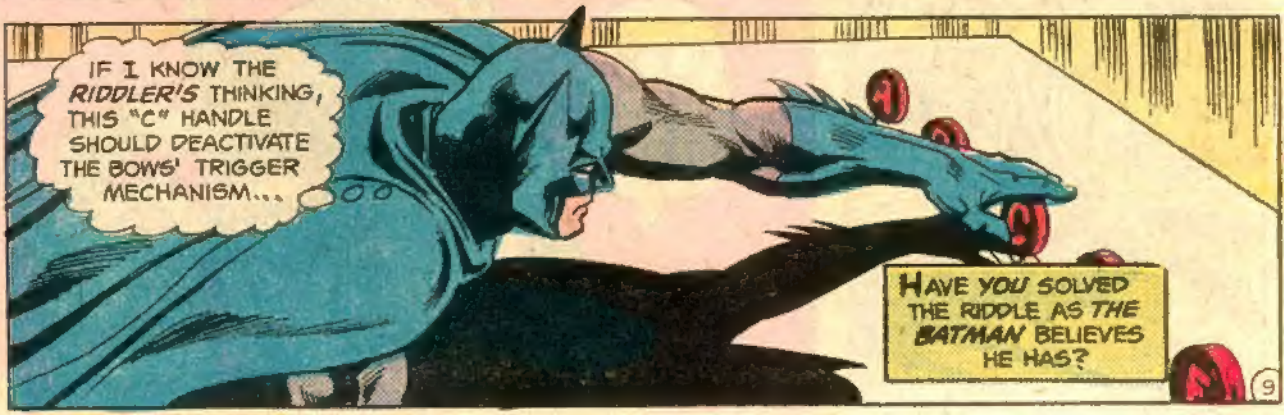
THIS TOWN HAS GONE SCREWY!
ONLY FOR ONCE, I AIN'T COMPLAININ' ...HAVIN' A MUGGER HAND ME HIS ROLL IS DOWNRIGHT REFRESHIN'!

MEANWHILE...
LESS THAN THREE MINUTES LEFT! AND I HAVE TO FIND THE RIDDLER'S CLUE BEFORE I CAN SOLVE IT!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING... SO MAYBE--

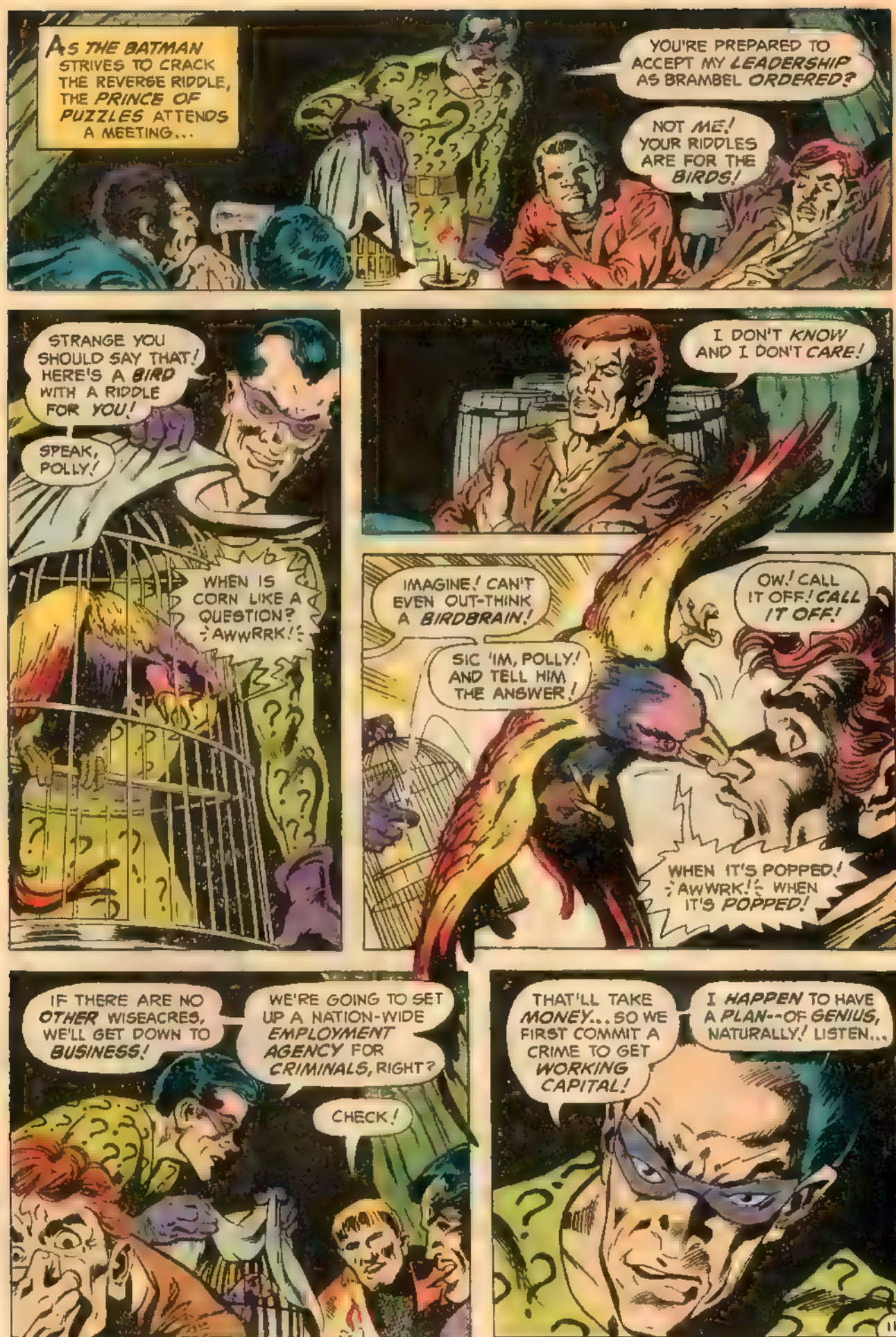
--THAT'S IT! WHY ELSE WOULD HE HAVE DARED GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SLAP MY BACK?
HE WAS PLANTING HIS RIDDLE--- ON ME!

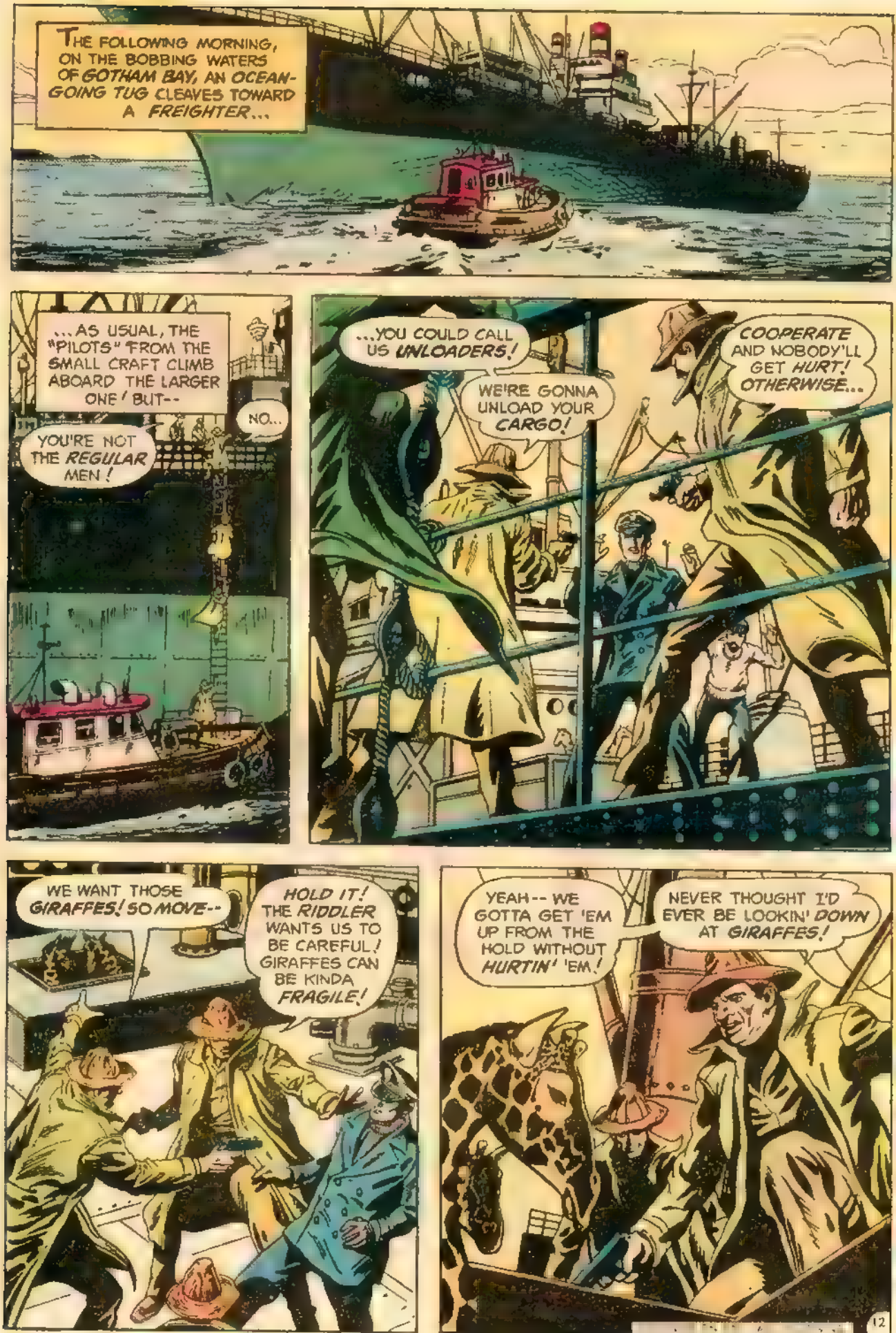

WHAT LETTER IS LIKE DEATH?

IT MUST HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE HANDLES!
I HAVE TO PICK THE ONE WITH THE RIGHT LETTER!
AND I HAVE LESS THAN A MINUTE LEFT!
A
B
C
E
F


IF I KNOW THE RIDDLER'S THINKING, THIS "C" HANDLE SHOULD DEACTIVATE THE BOWS' TRIGGER MECHANISM...
HAVE YOU SOLVED THE RIDDLE AS THE BATMAN BELIEVES HE HAS?

HE GRABS! YANKS--
--AND IMMEDIATELY, THE DEADLY MINI-ARSENAL CHANGES AIM, FROM THE BATMAN TOWARD THE CEILING--!
AS I FIGURED, THE RIDDLER FIXED IT SO ANY RING WOULD SAVE ME... EXCEPT THE ONE MARKED E!
E IS LIKE DEATH... IT COMES AT THE END OF LIFE!
BUT IF I'D PULLED THE RING THAT ANSWERED THE RIDDLE, I'D HAVE BEEN KILLED!--HE WAS BEING EXTRA TRICKY!
HE'S HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO GET AWAY!
BUT STILL, HE WOULDN'T BE THE RIDDLER IF HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME A CLUE--
THERE IT IS WRITTEN ON THAT FENCE--
HERE'S THE ANSWER, BATMAN-- CAN YOU TELL THE RIDDLE?
A CENTIPEDE WITH FALLEN ARCHES
--IN LUMINOUS PAINT! BUT THIS TIME I HAVE TO GUESS THE RIDDLE --FROM THE ANSWER!
?


AS THE BATMAN STRIVES TO CRACK THE REVERSE RIDDLE, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLES ATTENDS A MEETING...
YOU'RE PREPARED TO ACCEPT MY LEADERSHIP AS BRAMBEL ORDERED?
NOT ME! YOUR RIDDLES ARE FOR THE BIRDS!
STRANGE YOU SHOULD SAY THAT! HERE'S A BIRD WITH A RIDDLE FOR YOU!
SPEAK, POLLY!
WHEN IS CORN LIKE A QUESTION? AWWRRK!
I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE!
IMAGINE! CAN'T EVEN OUT-THINK A BIRDBRAIN!
SIC 'IM, POLLY! AND TELL HIM THE ANSWER!
OW! CALL IT OFF! CALL IT OFF!
WHEN IT'S POPPED! AWWRK! WHEN IT'S POPPED!
IF THERE ARE NO OTHER WISEACRES, WE'LL GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
WE'RE GOING TO SET UP A NATION-WIDE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FOR CRIMINALS, RIGHT?
CHECK!
THAT'LL TAKE MONEY... SO WE FIRST COMMIT A CRIME TO GET WORKING CAPITAL!
I HAPPEN TO HAVE A PLAN--OF GENIUS, NATURALLY! LISTEN...


THE FOLLOWING MORNING, ON THE BOBBING WATERS OF GOTHAM BAY, AN OCEAN-GOING TUG CLEAVES TOWARD A FREIGHTER...
...AS USUAL, THE "PILOTS" FROM THE SMALL CRAFT CLIMB ABOARD THE LARGER ONE / BUT--
NO...
YOU'RE NOT THE REGULAR MEN!
...YOU COULD CALL US UNLOADERS!
WE'RE GONNA UNLOAD YOUR CARGO!
COOPERATE AND NOBODY'LL GET HURT! OTHERWISE...
WE WANT THOSE GIRAFFES! SO MOVE--
HOLD IT! THE RIDDLER WANTS US TO BE CAREFUL! GIRAFFES CAN BE KINDA FRAGILE!
YEAH -- WE GOTTA GET 'EM UP FROM THE HOLD WITHOUT HURTIN' 'EM!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER BE LOOKIN' DOWN AT GIRAFFES!

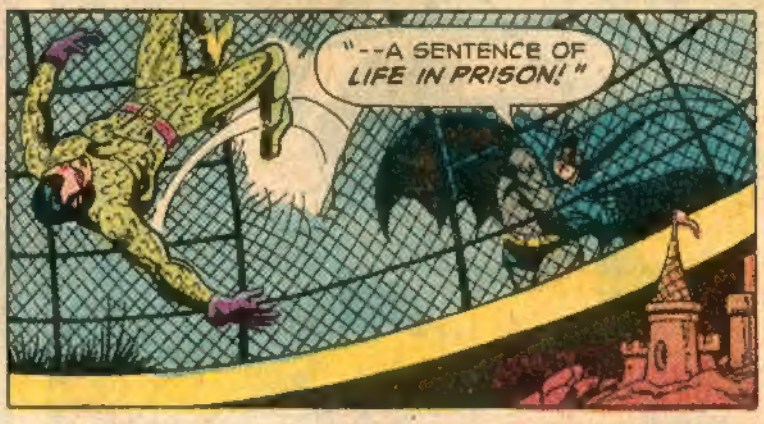
PLOK
THIS QUICK, IT'S OVER...

...ALMOST OVER!
LOOK! SOMEONE'S ESCAPING--!
HE HAD A SPEEDBOAT TIED TO THE TUG... AND WHEN THE FIGHT BEGAN, HE HOPPED IN IT!
DON'T WORRY! I HAVE A WHIRLY-BAT LASHED TO YOUR DECK, CAPTAIN!
HE WON'T GET AWAY, BECAUSE I KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING!
HOW'D YOU KNOW HE'D TRY THIS ROBBERY BEFORE WE REACHED PORT?
SIMPLE! HIS LAST RIDDLE TOLD ME WHAT HE'D TRY TO STEAL...
...AND I WAS CERTAIN HE COULDN'T RESIST ATTEMPTING THE CAPER AT SEA!
THE MIND WE'RE DEALING WITH IS OBSESSED WITH PUZZLES! AND REMEMBER THE OLD SAYING...
...A PUZZLED MAN IS SAID TO BE--"ALL AT SEA!"
BON VOYAGE, CAPTAIN!

TWILIGHT... AND THE GOOD CITIZENS LEAVE EAST GOTHAM PARK AS A BAD CITIZEN ENTERS...
MISTER... HEY, MISTER!
SCRAM, SONNY! NO TIME FOR AUTOGRAPHS TODAY!
ALL I WANNA DO IS ASK YOU A RIDDLE!
OH, DO... DO!
DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF THE BED?
NO, I DON'T! TELL ME-- QUICK--!
I CAN'T... IT HASN'T BEEN MADE UP YET! HA-HA!
DADDY... DADDY! THE NICE MAN GAVE ME--
--A HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL!?
15

THEN...
I'VE PLAYED FAIR WITH MY ENEMY! HE SOLVED THE RIDDLE ANSWER I PAINTED ON THE FENCE!
I'VE A PERFECT RIGHT TO FLEE!
HE COULDN'T HAVE GUESSED THE RIDDLE'S DOUBLE MEANING! SO I'LL HAVE TIME...
EH--? A BAT... WITH A NOTE TIED TO ITS LEG!
I HAVE A FEELING I WON'T LIKE THE MESSAGE!
IT'S MY ANSWER-- "A CENTIPEDE WITH FALLEN ARCHES!"
ALONG WITH THE RIDDLE...
Riddle: What's worse than a giraffe with a sore throat?
BLAST THAT BATMAN! HE FIGURED OUT THE WHOLE THING!

YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I OUTGUESSED YOU!
SIMPLE... THE RIDDLE HAS TO REFER TO THIS PLACE--
--THE GOTHAM ZOO! SPECIFICALLY, THE GIRAFFE HOUSE!
I KNEW IT WAS TEMPORARILY EMPTY--
-- AND THAT NEW LONG-NECKS WERE ON THE WAY FROM AFRICA!
IT FIGURED IF YOU WERE USING THEIR NEW HOME AS A HIDE-OUT, YOU'D KEEP THEM FROM ARRIVING!
HENCE THE ATTEMPTED SHIP ROBBERY!
I EXPECT YOU PLANNED TO HOLD THE ANIMALS FOR RANSOM, TOO!
YES... RIGHT AGAIN!
YOU REALIZE YOUR SITUATION IS HOPELESS?
YOU COULDN'T OUTTHINK ME! YOU CAN'T OUTRUN ME, EITHER!
--BUT MAYBE I CAN OUT-FIGHT YOU!
17



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH

S-1943

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Address your communications to: LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

The Batman is a creature of the night. Therefore, he needs villains that complement this image and do not detract from it the way the "camp" villains do. The use of criminals "moved by deep emotional reasons" and consumed by "inner demons" as Antone Perry describes them in **BATMAN #258** will most definitely add to the dread, nocturnal image.

Thus, villains such as **Catwoman, The Penguin** and **The Riddler** do **not** belong in the pages of **BATMAN** and **DETECTIVE. The Penguin**, no matter how he is handled, is a cheap, puny foe whose physical appearance itself is too whimsical to be taken seriously. **Catwoman**, even in her 1940's costume, is not a good match for **Batman** because under all her criminal antics lies her love for the man she is trying to outwit. And **The Riddler** is buried under so much camp that it isn't even worth the effort to bring him back!

Now, on to the *right* villains for **The Batman. The Joker** is the perfect **Batman** nemesis, but only when he is handled as an insane murderer. He can be as camp and cheap as **The Penguin** if handled otherwise. **Two-Face**, on the other hand, has never been handled incorrectly and deserves to stay in **Batman**'s "Rogues' Gallery". Ditto for newcomer **Ra's al Ghul**.

But three villains do not a Rogues' Gallery make, so you are faced with a problem. Either rotate these baddies every few issues, or create some new ones.

ARLEN L. SCHUMER, Fair Lawn, N.J.

(We certainly feel that THE SCARECROW, who appeared last issue, fits into the category, Arlen. And our next correspondent has a suggestion for another villain-revival you'll probably approve of!—BR)

Dear Editor:

In the past year, you've featured **Catwoman, The Penguin, Two-Face** and **The Joker** in **BATMAN. The Joker** story was the best, partly because **Robin** was out of the way, but chiefly because **The Joker** is the **Caped Crusader**'s most interesting foe. On the other hand, the only one I absolutely detested was **The Penguin** yarn—the major reason being that I don't think too much of the Fiendish Fowl.

But your propensity for dusting off these old **Bat**-adversaries makes one thing clear ... you're going to run out of villains or at least, good ones. **The Joker** is great. **Two-Face** is right behind him and **Catwoman** is all right once in a while. After those three, it really falls off. **The Joker** and **Two-Face** are really bizarre. They look weird and they act weird. Most of the others aren't really bizarre, merely gimmicky. So you've got to find some better candidates if you're going to resurrect more villains and I think I've found one.

Thanks to your **FAMOUS FIRST EDITION** of **BATMAN #1**, we recently had a chance to meet one of **Batman**'s first great villains, **Professor Hugo Strange.** He may not have been too original, but he certainly does justice to his surname. I'm forced to admit I was a bit unnerved by the **Professor**'s odd, bald head and his grotesque manner of cooing, "My dear **Batman**," while wielding his deadly hypodermic. Under the sophisticated guidance of modern comix veteran Denny O'Neil, these traits could become even more fearsome.

Perhaps we could meet **Professor Hugo Strange** again ...

PAUL EMRATH, Milwaukee, Wis.

(Who knows what evil will lurk in THE BATMAN's life? Only time will tell. In the meantime, all of you villain-fanatics will enjoy THE JOKER #1 which features the CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME battling TWO-FACE! It's on sale right now!—BOB ROZAKIS)

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2. Mail Subscriptions	2,848	3,645
C. Total Paid Circulation	193,223	192,479
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2. Copies distributed to news agents, but not sold	142,025	11E
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	398,448	334,604
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G. Total (Sum of E & F — should equal net press run shown in A)	402,740	337,734

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. (Signed) Bernard Kashian, Business Manager

BATMAN AND THE MUMMY
THE MUMMY HAS CAPTURED THE PROFESSOR AND HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER!
GREAT CHEOPS!
THEY VIOLATED THE TOMB OF HIS ANCESTORS AND HE WANTS REVENGE!
I'LL ROLL THIS TWO TON STONE... THEY'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!
EVEN MY SPECIAL MUMMY RAY GUN WON'T STOP HIM...
WELL, AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T KILL A MUMMY!
RIGHT... HE'S ALREADY DEAD! WHAT'LL WE DO?
WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A SECRET WEAPON... I'VE GOT IT!
WHAT IS IT? WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!
WE'LL LURE HIM AWAY WITH AN OFFER HE CAN'T RESIST!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE. WHAT'S THAT?
M-M-M! DELICIOUS HOSTESS TWINKIES! I CAN'T RESIST THAT MOIST SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMY FILLING!
HERE HE COMES!
M-M-M! I'VE BEEN AROUND FOR 2000 YEARS AND I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING SO GOOD!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE! LET'S GO!
Hostess Twinkies
GEE! THANKS, BATMAN AND ROBIN!
FOR THESE DELICIOUS HOSTESS TWINKIES! MMM-
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES®
* Hostess and Twinkies are registered trademarks of ITT Continental Baking Company

I'M PROMETHEUS AND I'M HERE TO BURN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
SEE, THE INFORMATION ON THIS DISK CAN BE DOWNLOADED DIRECTLY INTO MY CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.
I HAVE THIRTY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC ARTS MASTERS RIGHT HERE.
AND IN JUST A FEW SECONDS, ALL THEIR SKILLS, ALL THEIR PHYSICAL PROWESS WILL BE MINE.